

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-68 are pending. Claims 39-68 were canceled. After entry of this Reply and amendment, claims 1-38 will be pending. No new matter is added by entry of this amendment.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In the Office Communication dated June 29, 2007, claims 1-68 were subject to restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121, as follows:

Group I, claims 1-38, drawn to a method for in vitro maturation of immature oocytes

Group II, claim(s) 39-68, drawn to a method for in vitro maturation of immature human oocytes.

According to the examiner, the inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The methods of Groups I and II are disclosed in the art for maturation of oocytes, see Rose *et al.*, Molecular Reprod. Dev, 1992.

Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-38, drawn to methods for in vitro maturation of immature oocytes, without traverse.

CONCLUSION

Solely to advance prosecution and without prejudice to pursuing the claims in a continuing application, claims 39-68 were canceled. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of all canceled or non-elected claims in one or more related applications.

DOCKET NO.: S&B-0005
Application No.: 10/506,713
Office Action Dated: June 29, 2007

PATENT

Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the claims of Group I, claims 1-38. Applicants respectfully request an early and favorable action.

The examiner may call the undersigned at 206.332.1396 if a telephonic interview is required.

Date: August 29, 2007

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